



What you can do to start saving money and prepare for the MFEP — *at no cost to you!*

- 1. Get signed up or renew your application for the MA Farm Energy Discount program:** Subject to certification by the Mass Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), persons or corporations determined to be principally and substantially engaged in production agriculture or farming for commercial purposes may be eligible for a **10% discount on electric & gas rates**. A two-page application is available at <http://www.mass.gov/agr/admin/farmenergy.htm> or contact Linda Demirjian, Office Manager, MDAR, at (617) 626-1733.
- 2. Non municipal customers – Request an energy audit and incentive information** from your utility or energy efficiency providers. Don't wait! A new funding year is approaching and you are competing with the commercial sector. *These energy assessments could possibly be used for application to USDA-RD programs.*
- 3. Municipal utility customers – Contact your provider(s)** because you may have access to a fee for service energy audit, *which could possibly be used for application to USDA-RD programs.*
- 4. Contact USDA–Rural Development about their Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program.** Farmers and rural small businesses in USDA “eligible rural areas” can apply for a grant, a guaranteed loan, or a combination to purchase renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. Grant requests (to RD) must not exceed 25% of the eligible project costs. Renewable energy grants can range from \$2,500 to \$500,000, and can be combined with *Mass Technology Collaborative grants*. Energy efficiency grants can range from \$1,500 to \$250,000, *and can be combined with non-municipal incentive programs*. **By combining grant programs you can receive cost share of up to 50% or more.** Projects under \$200,000 qualify for a simplified application process. **In anticipation of the Funding Notice (expected in March), you should contact your local Rural Development Area Office** to verify that the project is eligible and to determine what level of energy assessment and environmental review may be required. This process may be lengthy so RD will advise you on how to get the environmental review started. Program information may be obtained on the web at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/index.html>. ***Berkshire–Pioneer RC&D is planning to provide technical assistance for application to this program so please relay your interest to BPRC&D.***
- 5. Contact the Mass Technology Collaborative about their Renewable Energy programs.** The Small Renewables Initiative (SRI) provides rebates for the installation of renewable energy projects that are up to 10 kilowatts. The applicant (and project site) must be a customer of a Massachusetts investor-owned electric distribution utility. SRI involves the distribution of approximately \$3.6 million of rebates each year through FY2010. Rebates will be provided on a “first come – first served” basis. Large Onsite Renewables Initiative (LORI) grants are awarded for feasibility studies and design & construction projects of systems greater than 10 kW. **MTC is now accepting applications for LORI. The deadline for submission is February 21, 2008 at 4pm.** Prior to submitting a LORI application, each applicant must secure a consulting team. For more information visit <http://www.mtpc.org/renewableenergy/index.html>.
- 6. Provide your email address & interest in RD energy programs to Berkshire–Pioneer RC&D:** Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D is compiling a list of interested farmers and will distribute program information via the Internet so get us your email address & let us know if you are interested in grant proposal writing services for the RD energy programs. An **on-line questionnaire** is also available to collect baseline information that will assist in developing the program. Find the questionnaire at MDAR's website -- <http://www.mass.gov/agr/programs/energy/index.htm>. Click on “Energy Information Survey Form.” It does require you to provide energy end-use data. **It is a fillable form that you can download, use Microsoft Word to fill it, and return it to Berkshire–Pioneer RC&D as an attachment to an email.** A web-based version of this will be available in January when the MFEP webpage is on-line. Our website will be launched in mid-January so please stay tuned!

See page 2 for contact information for above listed providers and programs.

For general information and support

CONTACT Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

✎ c/o Berkshire-Pioneer Resource Conservation & Development, 433 West St., #8, Amherst MA 01002,
Ph: 413-256-1607 Darlene Monds: darlene.Monds@ma.usda.gov Ann Gibson: agibson.rcd@verizon.net
✎ c/o Patriot Resource Conservation & Development, 319 Littleton Rd., #302, Westford MA 01886,
Ph: 978-692-1904 Stephanie Wilsen: stephanie.wilsen@ma.usda.gov

CONTACT Gerry Palano, Renewable Energy Coordinator, MDAR, 251 Causeway St., Suite 500,
Boston MA 02114, 617-626-1706, Gerald.Palano@state.ma.us

CONTACT Charles W. Dubuc, Business & Cooperative Programs Specialist, USDA/Rural Development, 60
Quaker Lane, # 44 Warwick RI 02886 Ph: 401-826-0842 Fx: 401- 828-6042 charles.dubuc@ma.usda.gov

VIEW the first issue of *Live Wire*, the Mass Farm Energy Program quarterly newsletter,
posted on the NRCS website: http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/news/news_CIG_2007_energy.html

For energy conservation & efficiency programs

Cape Light Compact: Maggie Downey, PO Box 427/SCH, Barnstable MA 02630
mags@cape.com, 508-375-6636

Bay State Gas Co.: Derek Buchler, 300 Friberg Parkway, Westborough MA 01581
dbuchler@nisource.com, 508-836-7344

Berkshire Gas: Ken Sadlowski, 115 Cheshire Rd., Pittsfield, MA 01201
ksadlowski@berkshiregas.com, 413-445-0345

Keyspan/National Grid: Michael Pace, 52 2nd Ave., Waltham MA 02415
mpace@keyspanenergy.com, 781-466-5637

National Grid: Mark Siegal, 55 Bearfoot Rd., Northboro MA 01532
mark.siegal@us.ngrid.com, 508-421-7296

NSTAR Electric & Gas: W. Hugh Gaasch, One NSTAR Way, SW 360, Westwood MA 02090
w.hugh.gaasch@nstar.com, 781-441-8706

Fitchburg Gas & Electric/UNITIL: Ed Mailloux, 6 Liberty Lane W., Hampton NH 03842
mailloux@unitil.com, 603-773-6541

Western MA Electric Co (WMECO): Robert Dvorchik, 333 West St., Pittsfield MA 01201
dvorcrcs@nu.com, 413-499-9004

For grant programs

Massachusetts Technology Collaborative/Renewable Energy Trust (*renewable energy*)
Jon Abe, 75 North Drive, Westborough MA 01581, abe@masstech.org, 508-870-0312 x 216

USDA/Rural Development (*energy efficiency & renewable energy programs*)

✎ **Western Massachusetts** (Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden Counties)
Peter Laurenza, Area Director Ph: 413-585-1000 x4 Fx: 413-586-8648 peter.laurenza@ma.usda.gov

✎ **Central Massachusetts and North Shore** (Worcester, Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex Counties)
Lyndon S. Nichols, Area Director Ph: 508-829-4477 x4 Fx: 508-829-3721 lyndon.nichols@ma.usda.gov

✎ **South Eastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod and the Islands**
(Bristol, Norfolk, Plymouth, Dukes, Nantucket and Barnstable Counties)
Thomas S. McGarr, Area Director (West Wareham) Ph: 508-295-5151 x3 Fx: 508 291-2368
tom.mcgarr@ma.usda.gov